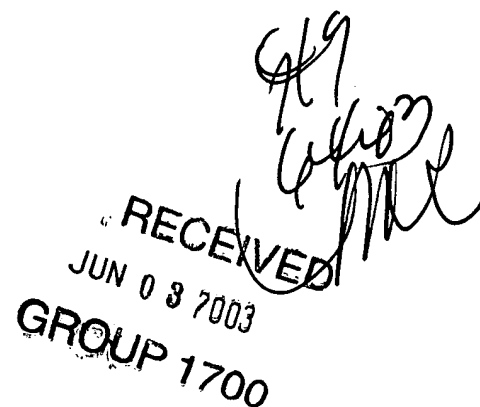




IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Wenstrup, David E.
Serial Number: 09/712,075
Filed: November 14, 2000
For: Method of Applying Adhesive To Fabric
Group Art Unit: 1764
Examiner: Wachtel, Alexis A.



Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

DECLARATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.131

I, David E. Wenstrup, being duly sworn, state the following:

1. I am the inventor in the above identified patent application which currently is pending in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
2. I have worked for Milliken and Company on a continuous full time basis since August 1988, and my current job title is Director of Development.
3. I received a Bachelor of Science degree from the Northern Kentucky University in 1984. I received an MBA and a PhD at the University of Kentucky in 1988.
4. Prior to April 6, 1999 I conceived an invention which is the subject of this patent application. Attached to this Declaration is an

original Invention Disclosure Record #2718 which comprises a record that I submitted to the Patent Department of Milliken Research Corporation, the research unit of Milliken and Company. This record references or summarizes the invention which is the subject of the above referenced patent application.

5. On about March 12, 1999 a meeting was conducted between me and several others within Milliken and Company at the Somer/Hillcrest textile plant in Greenville, South Carolina, USA. The subject of the meeting included my proposal to others of the invention of the above referenced patent application. A written record of the date of this meeting is provided on page 2 of the attached Invention Disclosure Record, and this date was recorded at the time the record was first created in 1999. The date of March 12, 1999, therefore, corresponds to a date by which I had fully achieved the conception of the invention which is the subject of the above referenced patent application. My signature appears on page 2 of the attached record.
6. The receipt of the above referenced invention disclosure by the Milliken and Company patent department, which references my conception, was acknowledged by the witness signature of two colleagues, including (1) Mr. Robert Adams, and (2) Mr. Kirk Vogt. Furthermore, another Milliken employee, Carolyn S. Wilson, signed and notarized the document on August 2, 1999 (See page 2).

7. Sometime after March 12, 1999 the above referenced conception of the invention was reduced to practice. This is indicated, at least in part, by the filing of a United States patent application on November 14, 2000 (Serial No. 09/712,075) (Attorney Docket No. 5060).
8. Continuous diligence toward a reduction to practice of this conception of the invention was exercised from a time prior to April 6, 1999 up through and including the patent application filing date of November 14, 2000.


David E. Wenstrup

Date: 5/28/03

Place: Spartanburg, S.C.

INVENTION RECORD NO. 2718
Automotive

DATE: 7/30/99
Project: Bengal

MILLIKEN RESEARCH CORPORATION

1. SUBMITTED BY:
David E. Wenstrup

2. CITIZENSHIP:
U.S.A.

3. RESIDENCE:
Easley, Pickens County, South Carolina

4. WHERE EMPLOYED:
Roger Milliken Center, Spartanburg, South Carolina

5. GENERAL CLASS OF THE INVENTION:

C. A composite fabric composed of a low melt copolymer and a cushioning surface has been developed to produce a molded textile part which gives rigidity and cushion for use in automotive parts. This copolymer will be either polyolefin or polyester based.

6. HISTORY OF THE PRIOR ART:

Prior art involves the use of two separate fabrics often of dissimilar chemical structure to form these two parts.

7. OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION:

To reduce complexity in the materials used and reduce raw material costs going into the molded part.

8. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:

A nonwoven batting composed of a low melt and high melt component is laid to produce a fabric which will become rigid in the molding process. Atop this batting a second layer of staple fibre typically of the same chemical nature is added with high loft. Holofil or similar fibres can be incorporated to increase cushion. This nonwoven batting is then heatset together into a single fabric.

9. PERMISSIBLE VARIATION; ALTERNATIVES OR EQUIVALENTS:

10. ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION:

By manufacturing these two pieces of the composite together significant savings in cost, process time, and material handling is achieved. By using similar materials in this manufacture, recyclability can be achieved.

11. EARLIEST CONCEPTION DATE:

3/12/99 - Mtg. at Somer/Hillcrest plant in Greenville South Carolina.

12. EARLIEST DISCLOSURE TO OTHERS:

3/12/99 - Mtg. at Somer/Hillcrest plant in Greenville South Carolina. Discussion with Jim Porterfield and Don Lovingood (Milliken Associates).

13. DATE OF EARLIEST SKETCH OR DRAWING:

14. EARLIEST DATE OF APPLICATION OR REDUCTION TO PRACTICE:

15. FURTHER RESEARCH INTENDED

Additional additives to nonwoven top layer to give enhanced cushion are to be followed up on.

NOTE: This form should be typed in triplicate and two signed and witnessed copies sent to the Patent Division.

This invention has been explained to and is understood by the undersigned who have witnessed the signature(s) of the submittee(s):

Signature(s) of submittee(s):

Place: Milliken Research Center

Date: August 2, 1999

Signature: 

Place:

Date:

Signature:

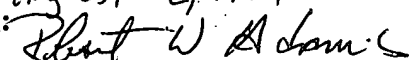
Place: Milliken Research Center

Date: August 2, 1999

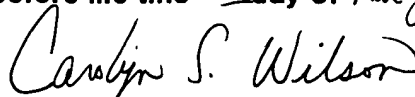
Signature: 

Place: Milliken Research Center

Date: August 2, 1999

Signature: 

Sworn to before me this 2nd day of August 1999



NOTARY PUBLIC

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES FEBRUARY 18, 2007